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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

MICHAEL D. BOPP, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
JOYCE A. RECHTSCHAFFEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

September 16, 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Naval Security Station
Nebraska and Massachusetts Ave, N.E.
Washington, D.C 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

I am writing regarding DOJ's compliance with Public Law No. 107-300, the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA). Section 2(a) of the IPIA requires the head of each agency to identify programs and activities that are susceptible to significant improper payments. Section 2(b) requires the head of each agency to estimate the annual number of improper payments, and submit those estimates to Congress.

Page 8 of GAO's report, *Meeting Challenges and Requirements in Meeting the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002* (GAO-05-417) revealed that DHS's Independent Auditor, KPMG, reported that DHS "did not institute a systematic method of reviewing all programs and identifying those it believed were susceptible to significant erroneous payments."

Page 336 of DHS's Performance and Accountability Report summarizes KPMG's findings. KPMG found that DHS did not institute a systematic method of reviewing all programs and identifying those it believed were susceptible to significant erroneous improper payments.

I would like to request the following information to review DHS compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002: 1) how DHS developed its method to review programs and activities to determine their susceptibility to significant erroneous payments; and 2) a thorough discussion of DHS's comments on KPMG's findings.

Please provide and return the requested information to:

Liz Scranton, Chief Clerk
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and
International Security
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Subcommittee would appreciate receiving this information by September 30, 2005.
If you have any questions, please contact Robin Landauer at (202) 224-2254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Coburn" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Coburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial
Management, Government
Information, and International
Security